



GRAPEVINE

WINTER EDITION 2021

Welcome

The moments that are dominating our personal, social and economic world today – is the impact of COVID. Pregnancies, births, birthdays, graduations to fare welling loved ones at a funeral has taken on

a different experience. For us as a community, most confronting, about this pandemic is the imposing of restriction of movement, the need to practice social distancing and the almost complete withdrawal into our own homes. To refrain from gatherings, hugging, handshakes and passing the peace goes against everything we know and practice as a L'Arche community. The cancellation of group gatherings where we can be physically, emotionally and spiritually present with one another along with being prohibited from participating in our normal in-person connections with family and friends is extremely difficult, all because we consider this as an unloving gesture.

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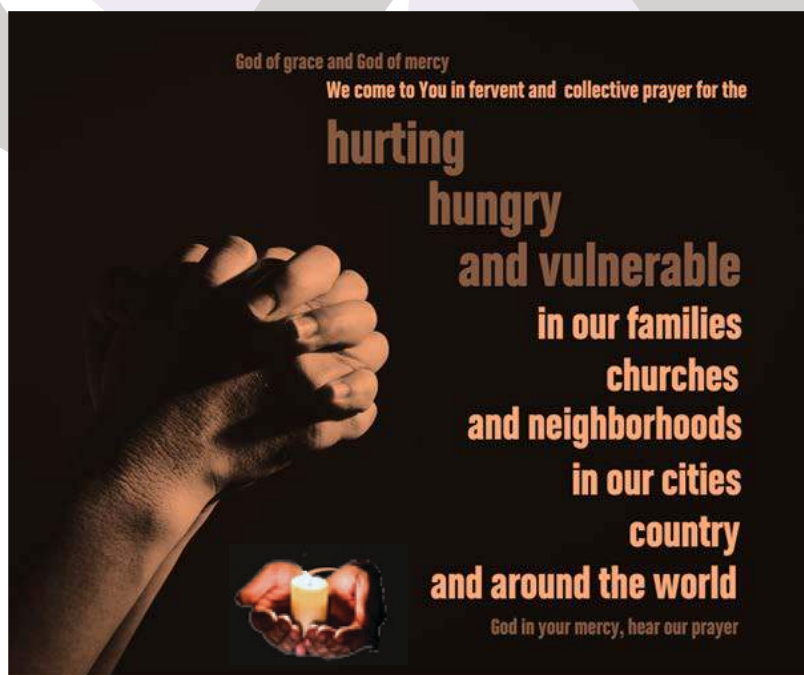
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One of the strangest moments in the disciples' life with Jesus might have been that conversation where he is trying to talk to them about his impending death and then he says, "It is to your advantage that I go away." At that moment I'm sure they could not have imagined how that could possibly be true. To them, the physical presence of Jesus right there with them had been their greatest good; but they would soon learn differently. This statement from Jesus is possibly meant to be encouraging. It points out that there are moments when it is loving to "go away"—and clearly this is one of them. In our current situation, as sadly as it is -to stay away takes on a different expression of love and care for others as much as it is protection for ourselves. When we see this "staying away" as a loving gesture it helps somehow. Henri Nouwen comments, "In Jesus's absence a new and more intimate presence became possible, a presence which nurtured and sustained and created the desire to see him again." My guess is that once we make it through this period, we will never again take for granted the ability to gather, the privilege of being together body and soul. Our desire to be together again will be strong, sweet and will nurture something new among us.

We know what happened to the disciples after Jesus went away: his Spirit came to them in a most dramatic way in the Upper Room. Against the backdrop of Jesus' physical absence, they experienced a new reality—the reality of the presence of Jesus in his absence. So I wonder if this, too, is something God is teaching us—what it means to be present even when we're absent. Even as we seek ways of staying connected with those whom God has given us and continue to do ministry in creative and caring ways, we might also trust that absence can foster a different kind of intimacy and presence. By prayerfully holding those we love in God's presence even when we can't be physically present.

Also trust that absence can foster a different kind of intimacy and presence. By prayerfully holding those we love in God's presence even when we can't be physically present.

"In our L'Arche community, there is a bonding that goes beyond human expectations. At times the strength of our community lies in the love of people who refrain from getting caught in the trap of trying to fix everything for us, but who pray for us and allow us the pain of our wilderness and our wants, so that we might become more deeply grounded in God." In this season can we trust when the balance of presence and absence of the physical self, can bring its gifts of love beyond measure

God bless

Krishnee Nair





Message from Burwood

We were blessed to share the Washing of the Feet with Kathy, Tess, John and Linda with core members and assistants. Another special time was Family Day, which gave us the chance to see core members talents, such as Peter's dancing skills, and Marilena with her singing. Core members have been keeping active with in and outdoor activities.

Core members have stayed active, both in and outdoors. Marilena and Joanne have been showing creativity preparing Easter decorations and eggs. Bruce and Peter enjoy talking about their footy team and keep everyone updated of NRL. Peter doesn't miss a chance to support his team and is a regular fan of the game.

In March we said farewell to Jackline, who shared life with us as an assistant. We wish her all the best on her future endeavours.

We look forward to welcoming Tim in the household, he is proving to be a kind and gentle friend.



Marilena, Masiel, Sujata and Lillianne



Joanne, Marilena and Umi participated in a 'My Rights' Webinar

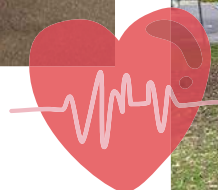


Marilena's Birthday Celebration



Tim, Rosa, Peter and Jackline







Message from Campsie



Members celebrating Easter Monday



Kathy with Esther Mary



Joseph, Santosh and Kathy



*Katie, Janine, Geoff and Bonfire (above)
Elina, Jacinta and Claire (below)*



Janine



*Bonfire, Rosa, Priya, Suman, Tim
and Bruce*



Joanne, Marilena and Rita



Katie

In May, Geoffrey and Katie enjoyed their day programs with Participate Australia. Rita was also happy to go back to her day programme and visit her family. Bonfire and Janine enjoyed their days soaking up the sun in the backyard. It was also great to meet the Burwood Core Members and enjoy sharing lunch at the local park.

In June we received the COVID-19 vaccines at our house. Geoffrey was brave and was the first Core Member to receive it. We also celebrated two birthdays, Bonfire and our House Coordinator Barsa. Bonfire enjoyed two celebrations, one with family, and one with friends he has known a long time.



Geoff, the first Core Member in community to receive the vaccine



Rita and Priya



Katie with her new ipad



Katie



Campsie Core Members during craft time



Rita with flowers picked from a walk



Katie and Rita enjoying craft



Katie



Members at the park before before lockdown



Message from Five Dock

The highlight for all of the NSW L'Arche communities, not just Five Dock, was Family Day. It was really special to spend time with our loved ones and engage in the wider L'Arche community. Carlye gave us a really special performance – “Dance Monkey”!

Washing of the feet was another special afternoon for our house with Carla, Amira, Krishnee, Kirsten, Sarita and Prabha joining the ladies for the ceremony.

We've also had visits from a dietician to help us make healthy choices around food, and learn some good tips for the kitchen.

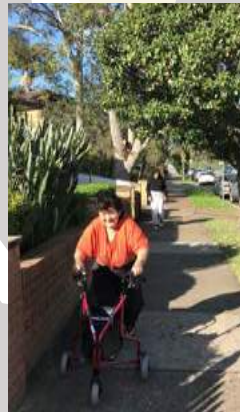
Kathy and Fiona have been doing lots of art work, with Kathy making the most of the art workshops at Homebush. Gian is loving going out for sight-seeing drives and Carlye is making plans to study psychology again soon.



Carlye



Fiona



Easter celebrations



Carlye and Prabha



Fiona and Amira



Fiona



Kathy



Washing of the Feet

The Easter celebration at Campsie house was really special, with lots of food, Easter hats and reflection. We also celebrated Andrew's birthday at Merrylands this month. We've been working a lot on our independence skills this month. Fiona has been cooking and washing clothes; and Carlye has cooked dinner for the house a few times. Gian has been getting into a regular exercise routine.

We were also lucky to have Fiona's mum and sister Vanessa visit us too. It's so important for us to have good relationships, and to be able to share our successes and joys, as well as rely on each other in times of need.

The first half of June at Five Dock was filled with friends, family and community time.

We were so lucky to have Fiona's sister Vanessa come and stay with us again for a weekend. We also welcomed Fiona and Vanessa's Mum and stepdad to Five Dock house for dinner. Gian was delighted to share her culture with Fiona's mum.

We all really enjoyed spending time with Bonfire and the rest of the L'Arche community for his birthday. It's really special to connect with everyone. We hope that we can all gather together soon.

In the meantime, we will be enjoying time together at home slowing down - cooking, gardening, making art and connecting



Kathy and Zoe



Gian and Zoe



Gian and Prabha



Fiona and Kathy at the waterfront



Fiona and Vanessa



Kathy

We heard it through the Grapevine...



Message from Merrylands

We have enjoyed outings and drives, including to Henley community garden, the city and continuing our internal activities. Before lockdown we enjoyed life at home as well as reconnecting with our families and friends in person.

Before lockdown Anthony returned to Club Weld on Tuesdays where he enjoys jamming and making music. There is singing, playing electric drums or guitar and recording sessions. Anthony has also been gardening and mowing at home as well as playing the drums, keeping contact with everyone on zoom, watching videos on youtube and playing along with his guitar. He also likes to act along with the characters on Blue Heelers, art and craft and bike riding.



Joseph has been supervising us all as usual, or watching what is happening in the street from his rocking chair at the front window. Joseph enjoyed some art and craft on Friday's before the lockdown and had some help from Rita on his first day. Joseph has been watching movies, joining in zoom and listening to music while he rocks away in his chair.

Andrew has been watching and listening to trains on youtube and was able to go the Thirlmere Train Museum with his Dad before the lockdown. Andrew enjoys doing the shopping. There are giggles a plenty when we zoom with everyone and he gets to see his friends on the big screen. He has played with his train set, done some art and crafts and played with his huge Connect 4 game.



Goi and Joseph



Santosh and Joseph



Joseph and Mikali

Pre-lockdown we enjoyed afternoon tea at Angela's and got to meet up with John and Linda Attard. We joined in the music Festival for Down Syndrome Day with others from L'ARCHE around the country on zoom. Family Day was enjoyed by everyone. We have connected with the community on zoom for our Lenten gatherings and we were deeply moved by our connection with L'ARCHE Kolkata.



Anthony and Joseph with Mikali in singing '



Core members enjoyed some family time over Easter, and on Easter Monday enjoyed reconnecting with friends for Easter Celebrations held at Campsie House.



We heard it through the Grapevine... 7

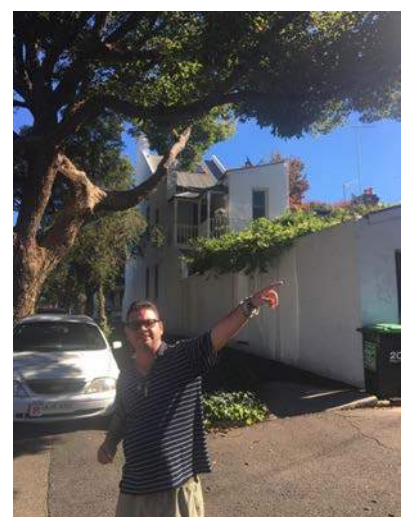


Community Participation



Lourie has been spending his time going on his regular long walks and going to places that interest him.

He has also been spending time tending to the garden.





Birthdays



Janine celebrating her birthday at Campsie house



Andy with his Train themed birthday cake at Merrylands



Marilena celebrating her birthday during club night

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We heard it through the Grapevine...



Joanne and Tim at Joe's Birthday



Joseph celebrated his birthday with all his friends and family at Merrylands house



Joseph with his family at Merrylands



A message from Kathleen

My birthday was on the 6th of June. I turned 72.

My sisters Maryanne and Jo took me out for my birthday to an Italian restaurant.

I ate a big hamburger with salad on it.

It was delicious.

I had a big chocolate milkshake. Nice people worked at the restaurant. After the restaurant I went to my sisters place. I had a lot of presents to open.

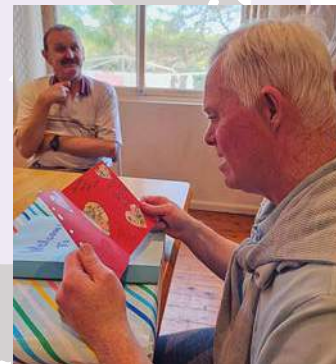
I got a pair of blue and black pants. I got some green ones too. I was given a nice red jacket. I felt good on my birthday. I came home to Burwood in the evening. I had a nice Birthday



Bonfire's 60th Birthday

Celebrations

Bruce, Joanne, Pete and Kathleen along with the Burwood house assistants welcomed a new Core Member to L'Arche NSW, Tim Garner. Tim has been participating in the community through arts and crafts, group walks to the park as well as celebrating special events such as Birthdays, Club Nights and Washing of the Feet. We celebrated his welcome by sharing his favourite kinds of food.



Cleofe and Lawrence along with Core Members celebrated the Baptism of their son Ramnzo (left)



Madhu, shared with us a picture of her baby boy (above)

Lawrence, Pete, Cleofe, Ramnzo, Bruce, Marilena, Rosa, Joanne and Suman at Baby Ramnzo's Christening

In May we came together to celebrate the ceremony of Esther Mary's Baptism at St Mary's Catholic Church, Manly

We enjoyed sharing a delicious meal and meeting with friends old and new



Pete and Bruce



Dipi, Joe, Michelle, Andrew, Joanne, Asha, Anthony Angela, Goi and friends



Fiona, Prabha, Carlye, Carla and Gian



Zoe with Elina, Esther and Joanne



Elina, Esther Mary and Luke



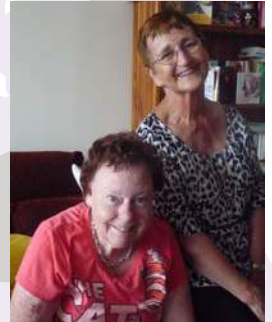
Kathy and Prabha

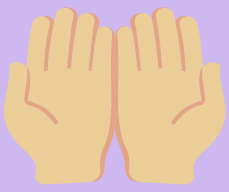


Remembering Mary Bancks

We celebrated the life of Mary Banks- one the first house coordinators in the Merrylands household.

Family and Friends gathered on the 10.4.21 at St Marys Catholic Church at Berkeley.





Lenten Gatherings



During our Lenten Gatherings, L'Arche NSW were able to connect with other communities around the world, especially Kolkata, India. We shared moments of joy and laughter as we gathered in prayer in the lead up to Lent



Washing of the Feet



A time to reflect on our life and relationship with God and others, we celebrated this special occasion as we joined together in a key L'Arche tradition, Washing of the Feet



Michelle, Anthony, Bonfire
and Michael



Gol and Michael



Michelle, Andrew, Geoff, Goi and Priya



Marilena and Suraj



Kath and John



Blama and Bishal



Claire, Joseph and Katie



Marilena and Adriana



Peter, Rosa, Tim and Lillianne



Tess, Rosa and Peter



John, Kath and Suraj



Krishnee and Gian



Krishnee and Amira

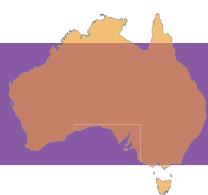


Kirsten, Fiona and Kathy



Kathy, Prabha and Sarita

We heard it through the Grapevine... 10



National News

Thank you Eileen,

A great International Vice Leader who has led The L'Arche world well. We wish you all of the Lord Blessings in your retirement



International News

Her story, her way

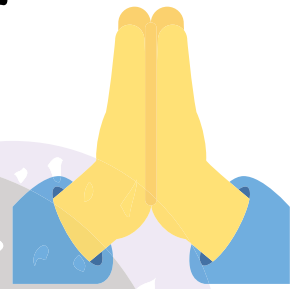
This International Women's Day on March 8, L'Arche salutes Priya, a woman who enjoys telling her story, her way. And that means without words.

Since joining L'Arche Asha Niketan Chennai, India two years ago, Priya has not let an intellectual disability prevent her from communicating fluently, even though she does not speak. Priya uses the language of dance, of cooking, drawing, photography, and much more – even the art of simply spending time with people.

All Priya needed was a place to belong, and a chance for her unique voice to be heard and appreciated. Through her approach to life, is Priya sharing an important message for women and men across all cultures? What do you think Priya is saying?



Community Prayer



What is Essential to this Tradition

- Community Prayer is a gathering of the community for worship.
- It is participatory and includes singing and prayer.
- It is ecumenical and sensitive to other faiths that may be represented.

Why We Pray Together as a Community

- Community Prayer is a time to deepen our spiritual dimension and nourish members in their faith journey.
- In prayer we are all equal.
- People, no matter what their faith tradition, can relate to the core spirituality of L'Arche.
- It is an opportunity to welcome friends and other faith groups.

Examples

- Core members often express themselves spontaneously at community prayer.
- When the prayer leader did not arrive a core member led the prayer time.
- A friend of the community is responsible to lead the singing.
- Some communities alternate invitations to local clergy to lead worship.
- It is planned and led by the Spiritual Life Committee of the community.

How does this Tradition Connect to the Core Values of L'Arche

- “The community has an obvious and active spiritual life. The community recognizes and lives out its ecumenical vocation” Key Elements, 4.
- “...Foster an environment where we can live out in our daily lives our identity as communities of faith.” Seven Calls Document
- “L'Arche communities, founded on covenant relationship...seek to be signs of unity, faithfulness and reconciliation.” L'Arche Charter



Monthly Recipes

Chicken, Corn & Leek Chowder



Serves 4 / 10 mins prep / 30 mins cook

Step 1 of 2

Heat oil in a large saucepan. Add leek, celery and bacon. Cook over medium heat for 10 minutes or until leek softens. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute.

Step 2 of 2

Gradually pour in stock, stirring until smooth. Add milk and potato and simmer for 10 minutes. Add corn kernels and cook for a further 5 minutes. Add chicken and cook for 3 minutes or until heated through. Serve soup topped with chives and drizzled with extra oil.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup plain flour
- 2 rasher bacon, chopped
- 2 potatoes, peeled, diced
- 2 stick celery, chopped
- 2 leeks, white part only, chopped
- 1 cup chicken bone stock
- 2 corn cobs, kernels removed
- 3 1/2 cup reduced-fat milk
- 2 tbs olive oil
- chives, chopped (to garnish)
- 1 1/2 cup chicken, cooked, shredded

Blueberry Muffin Slice



Serves 12 / 5 mins prep / 40 mins cook

Step 1 of 2

Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan-forced. Grease and line a 20cm (5cm deep) square pan with baking paper, extending paper 2cm above edges.

Step 2 of 2

Place all the ingredients, except blueberries, in a large bowl. Stir until well combined. Transfer mixture to pan and spread out evenly. Scatter over blueberries. Bake for 40 minutes or until golden and cooked through.

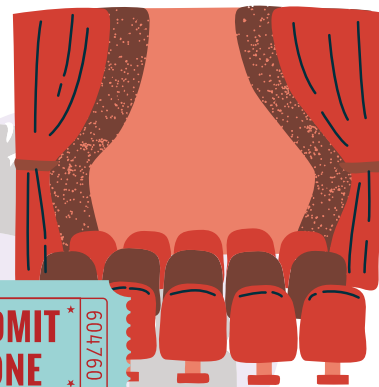
Cool completely in pan. Cut into pieces. Serve.

Ingredients

- 3 cups quick oats
- 2 cups milk
- 2 free range eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup frozen blueberries



DINE & DISCOVER NSW



The NSW Government has launched Dine & Discover NSW to encourage the community to get out and about and support dining, arts and tourism businesses.

NSW residents aged 18 and over can apply for 4 x \$25 vouchers, worth \$100 in total.

- 2 x \$25 Dine NSW Vouchers to be used for dining in at restaurants, cafés, bars, wineries, pubs or clubs.
- 2 x \$25 Discover NSW Vouchers to be used for entertainment and recreation, including cultural institutions, live music, and arts venues.

The vouchers:

- can be used 7 days a week, including public holidays
- can be used at participating NSW businesses that are registered as COVID Safe
- are valid to 30 June 2021.

You can apply for vouchers any time up until 30 June 2021.

To be eligible for the vouchers, you must be:

- aged 18 years or over
- a NSW resident.

**Vouchers expire 31st
August 2021**



How to apply

1. Go to this link
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-dine-discover-nsw-vouchers>
2. Select the 'Apply online' button
3. Log in, or create your MyServiceNSW Account.
4. Follow the prompts to apply for the vouchers.

If successful, you'll:

find the vouchers under the 'Vouchers' section of the Service NSW App within an hour and receive an email from Service NSW with the vouchers available to download and print.

If you do not have a MyServiceNSW Account or you're unable to apply online, you can call 13 77 88 or visit a Service NSW Centre with your proof of identity documents.

If you'd like to use a NSW Photo Card as a proof of identity document, you'll need to apply at a Service NSW Centre.



Birthdays

August

4	Leonie Atkinson	13	Michael Hill
6	Helen Merrin	13	Masiel Fernandez
10	Bruce Ewin	20	Patricia Smith
11	Pat Snudden	21	Amira Idriss
11	Adriana Arena		



September

9	Timothy Garner
13	Rita Degois
17	Krishnee Nair
18	Peter Taylor
25	Gian Gian
27	Priya Chavan
30	Stephanie Lan

Anniversaries

August

Patricia Snudden 1983 - 38 years

September

Andrew Kennedy 2020 - 14 years



Prayers and Acknowledgement

We pray for:

- The health and wellbeing of all those suffering around the world, that they receive the healing strength and support they need
- The newest members of the L'Arche NSW community, Carlye, Fiona, Gian and Kathy as they celebrated their first year Anniversary in May and June
- L'Arche communities all around the world
- All those who volunteer their knowledge, time and skills in supporting their local communities. National volunteer week 17th to 23rd May

In the spirit of reconciliation L'Arche NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Upcoming Events

Due to COVID-19, large physical gatherings are postponed until further notice.

Club Night every Wednesday at 5:15pm via ZOOM
Small Prayer Gathering every Thursday morning 10am at Homebush
Art and Craft on Friday mornings 10am at Homebush
Prayer Night Every 2nd Friday
Jam Band last Sunday of the month at 3pm via ZOOM

2021 AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4  Leonie Atkinson	5	6  Helen Merrin	7
8	9	10  Bruce Ewin	11  Adriana Arena Pat Snudden Club Night	12	13  Masiel Fernandez Michael Hill Prayer Night	14
15	16	17	18 Club Night	19	20  Patricia Smith	21  Amria Idriss
22	23	24	25 Club Night	26	27 Prayer Night	28
29 Jam Band	30	31				

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2021 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Club Night	2 Small Prayer Gathering	3	4
5	6 	7	8 Club Night	9 Timothy Garner Small Prayer Gathering 	10 Prayer Night	11
12	13  Rita Degois	14	15 Club Night	16 Small Prayer Gathering	17  Krishnee Nair	18  Peter Taylor
19	20	21	22 Club Night	23 Small Prayer Gathering	24 Prayer Night	25  Gian Gian
26 Jam Band	27  Priya Chavan	28	29 Club Night	30 Stephanie Lan Small Prayer Gathering		

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Come join us for

CLUB NIGHT

Wednesday nights at 5:15pm
via ZOOM
(until further notice)

Join Zoom
Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85803591998?
pwd=TS92VEdZUjJKNUFES3UvOC9TYjQzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85803591998?pwd=TS92VEdZUjJKNUFES3UvOC9TYjQzUT09)

Topic: Wednesday night fun and games
Meeting ID: 858 0359 1998
Passcode: clubnight



Copy and paste this link into browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85803591998pwd=TS92VEdZUjJKNUFES3UvOC9TYjQzUT09>



COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!

JAM BAND

Last Sunday of the month
3pm via ZOOM
(until further notice)

Join Zoom
Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85983858388?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85983858388?pwd=eIF0TDY1dFQzRXZCRClPUktGVHBTUT09)
[pwd=eIF0TDY1dFQzRXZCRClPUktGVHBTUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85983858388?pwd=eIF0TDY1dFQzRXZCRClPUktGVHBTUT09)

Meeting ID:
859 8385 8388

Passcode:
jamband



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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85983858388pwd=eIF0TDY1dFQzRXZCRClPUktGVHBTUT09>

Needs of the Community

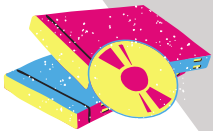


- Board games



- Colouring Books for adults

- CD's



- Garden Pots

- Instruments

- 1 x Treadmill

- Barbeque



Feedback and Complaints

We encourage you to provide feedback to us! To do so, please refer to the feedback brochure or pick up a copy at our office in Homebush.

For more information, contact us on (02) 9787 8132

Alternatively, you can contact the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission on 1300 035 544 or TTY 133 677. Interpreters can be arranged. More options are available at www.ndiscommission.gov.au

Improving the NDIS: Agency releases Independent Assessment pilot evaluation and IAC consultation outcomes

7th July 2021 | www.ndis.gov.au

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has released the evaluation report of the second Independent Assessment (IA) pilot focused on participant experience during the IA process. The evaluation report is based on the participation and feedback of almost 4000 NDIS participants who opted to take part in the second IA pilot, providing significant insight into what worked and areas for further refinement and improvement.

Key findings of the evaluation report include:

- 70% of participants/supporters who responded to the evaluation survey reported their experience as excellent, very good or good.
- 92% of participants/supporters considered their assessment report an excellent very good or good reflection of their assessment.
- 65% considered their assessment as excellent, very good or good reflection of their functional capacity.
- The average length of an independent assessment was 3:22 hours.
- 60% of participants/supporters felt the assessment length was “about right”, but 35% felt it was too long.
- 89% of participants/supporters who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, rated their IA experience excellent, very good or good.
- 73% who mainly speak a language other than English at home rated their IA experience as excellent, very good or good.
- Almost all of these participants/supporters reported that their IA was culturally appropriate.

The NDIA has also released the report from the Independent Advisory Council (Council), Strengthening Scheme Reforms to Access and Planning, based on Council’s extensive consultation with the disability sector on proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) reforms.

The IAC was requested to provide advice on Scheme reforms, including independent assessments, by the NDIA Board and Minister for the NDIS, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC.

The NDIA has also released its interim response to the Council’s report.



The NDIA’s interim response, along with the findings from the IA pilot, will be discussed at this week’s Disability Reform, Ministers’ Meeting (DRMM) between Minister Reynolds and state and territory disability ministers.

The NDIA is highly appreciative of the work of Council, and also thanks everyone who participated in Agency and Council consultations, and the second IA pilot.

The Council’s [Strengthening Scheme Reforms to Access and Planning report](#) can be found on the IAC website.

Read the IA Pilot Evaluation Report and the NDIA’s Interim Response to the Council report.